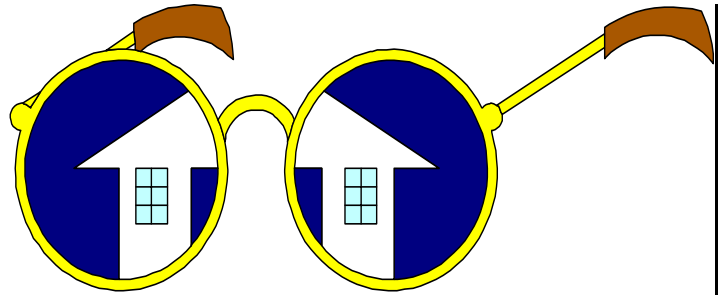


# Super Sentinel



First Quarter 2004

Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 1

## Terri's Tidbits

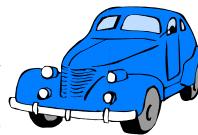
The Superstition Captain's meeting was held January 8th at the Superstition Community Room. In an effort to find a way to accommodate more of our 600 captains, co-captains and assistant captains, I held two 2 hour sessions throughout the day and one evening session. The response was great. 80 captains were able to attend. The noon session was the largest of the three and the other two sessions were just about even. Because it worked so well this last time I will probably start having at least 2 meetings, one during the day and one in the evening. Any feedback from those who attended the meetings would be a great help in determining what I do next time.

The program that was presented was a subject that has gotten a lot of national publicity, but not everyone knows what it means to them or their neighborhoods: The Role of the Neighborhood Watch Program in Coordination with Homeland Security.

While we as American citizens have been guaranteed certain rights: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, we can not be guaranteed the one thing that we desire most of all: the ability to keep us and our families safe at all times. The only area that we have the most control over is our home and to some extent, our neighborhood. As a Neighborhood Watch participant you have already demonstrated your commitment to keeping your neighborhood safe.

The American Red Cross, in association with the Homeland Security Department has developed an 8-page booklet entitled, "Terrorism — Preparing for the Unexpected". There is some very good information in the booklet with the major theme being "be prepared". The booklet discusses three keys on how the Neighborhoods can partnership with Homeland Security to help its residents stay safer: Developing a Neighborhood Disaster Plan; Consider being a volunteer; and Keeping your Neighborhood Watch active.

Our H.E.A.T and VIN etching events have really been popular. Our supply of steering wheel locks is now



depleted which means we have also signed up almost 2000 vehicles in the Watch Your Car program. Between our events and the bait vehicles, Mesa has already shown a 14% decrease in auto thefts! When you are #1 and wanting desperately to be out of the top 10, every little decrease is a major victory. However, we can only accomplish our goal if you take precautions to not become a victim. **We have another event scheduled on April 22 at the Central Patrol Substation parking lot from 4pm to 6pm.** We urge you to come on down and take advantage of this free event. You may participate in both the free VIN etching and sign up for the Watch Your Car program or you may do one or the other. Just remember that "layering" is the best type of vehicle theft protection.

Hope to see you there!!

Have you sent in all of your documentation from events held in 2003? If not, please do as soon as possible so that we can update our records.

Did you only have one event or no events in 2003? If you go ahead and have an event within the next six weeks, I will reactivate your Neighborhood Watch. We all have things happen in our lives that take precedence over every thing else. It is never too late to start anew. If you need any assistance, need supplies or if you think your neighborhood would benefit from having the introductory presentation about what Neighborhood Watch is and how it works, call me.

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH -  
"HELP PREVENT CRIME  
ONE BLOCK AT A TIME"**

## Important Telephone Numbers



Terri Teten .....(480) 644-3692  
Superstition Neighborhood Watch  
Coordinator

Emergency or Crime in Progress....  
911

Community Relations Unit.....  
.....644-2300  
Community Relations FAX .....  
.....644-2800  
Police Non-Emergency...644-2211  
Silent Witness.....1-800-343-TIPS  
Narcotics Hotline .....(602)644-5081  
Graffiti Hotline.....644-3083  
Gang Hotline.....644-4264  
Fraud Alert Hotline.....644-2345

# Id theft

## *"The Game of the Name"*

How much is your "good" name worth"? How much are you willing to pay to keep it?

For over 200,000 people in 2003 their "good" name became an issue that resulted in losses up to \$180M. Phoenix/Mesa led the nation in the major metropolitan area class.



According to the Federal Trade Commission, the most common ID Theft complaints were: credit card fraud, phone or utility fraud, bank fraud, employment-related fraud, government document or benefit fraud and loan fraud.

ID Theft has evolved with the technology age as the fastest growing crime in the nation. Every time you use your credit card, write a check or complete an application, you are giving a stranger your most valuable possession — your name. Along with your address, social security number, telephone number or employee number, your name can be used to open up new accounts, have utilities turned on, or even evade criminal prosecution. With the advent of the Internet your name is now available to con-men and criminals world-wide.

In almost every magazine or article written on ID Theft they have personal stories by victims. Of course, I did not know any of those victims. However, in December of 2003, my husband became one and I have since learned first hand the frustration felt by all of those other victims. A man, using all of my husband's personal information from social security number to the name of his employer, attempted to open a Sears account for \$8,000.

He had already opened another account for \$3,000 at a nearby store, but Sears decided to check just a little further and called me. This Sears store was located in Houston, Texas. My husband was riding the bus home from Phoenix at the time of the phone call! I truly thought we were less apt to become victims, especially since I work with educating the public on this very subject. Wrong!

So, how do you protect your name? Probably, the only way to be completely sure your name is safe would be to never use it. Don't work, don't take out credit, never go to school, etc. In other words, there is no way to be absolutely sure your name is safe as long as you use it. However, there are some tips that will help reduce the risk of ID Theft.

1. Never give your personal information to anyone over the telephone or the Internet unless you are absolutely sure you know who they are. If you made the original contact on the phone, or if you used a known and secure internet site you will be less apt to be giving it to a con-man.

2. Shred every piece of mail or paper that may contain your name or personal information. Don't forget to shred the application or order forms in those catalogs.

3. Make sure that you keep your deposit slips or credit card slips until they can be shredded. Check to make sure no full account numbers are on the slips when they go back to the business and never throw them away without shredding them.

4. Guard your account and PIN numbers. Never share them or put them in a place that is easily accessible to others. When using a PIN at an ATM or card reader make sure you hide the numbers from others view as you enter them.

5. Use plastic or cash as much as possible. Writing checks gives a stranger your name,

address, bank account number, along with the driver's license number they require to cash it. In many cases, credit card purchases are covered in case of fraud.

6. Always sign the back of your credit and debit cards. This will ensure your signature will be the one they match with your ID. If you only put "see ID" on the back anyone can sign your name and make it match a fake ID. In addition, some credit card companies consider the unsigned card "invalid" or not active until signed, which will not afford you the fraud or ID Theft protection.

7. If you make purchases or do any banking on-line make sure you have good security on your computer, such as a firewall. This will help keep your passwords and personal information safer, especially if you have cable internet. Do not put your bank names or account numbers on the hard drive of your computer. Programs like "Quicken" or "Money" will work just as well with identifiers other than the real names and numbers.

8. Request copies of your credit reports from each of the three major reporting agencies at least once a year. Do not wait until you want to make a major purchase such as a house or a car to check it. Red flags are things that show entries you did not make such as change of addresses or unknown new accounts.

9. Know the billing cycles of your bank and credit card statements. Check them every month for any activity you may not have authorized.

10. Check with the Better Business Bureau before doing business with a company that is unknown to you.

In the "game of the name" the winner is the person who is able to keep his/her "good" name without incurring a financial loss.



## A Season of Changes

Just as we were settling down and getting to know our Superstition Patrol District staff, Commander Dan Saban decided to make a change. After 24 years with Mesa Police Department he decided to retire. We wish him well.

Taking over the position of Commander of the Superstition Patrol District will be our good friend and former Crime Prevention Unit leader, Commander John Meza. Commander Meza joined the Mesa Police Department in 1986. In 1989, he was instrumental in the development of the current gang unit. During his 18 years with the Mesa Police Department he has held assignments in Patrol, Special Investigations, Staff Resources and Training. During his assignment with Staff Resources, he served as the Crime Prevention Lieutenant for the Crime Prevention Unit. Superstition Patrol is his first assignment since his promotion to Commander in February of 2004. Welcome, Commander Meza. We look forward to working with you and your team of exceptional officers!! Look for him to contribute to this newsletter in upcoming issues!

Another change to add to the mix was the news that another friend decided it was time to retire for good this time. Herb Henderson, our VIPS volunteer, and Neighborhood Watch assistant in Sunland Village East attended his last Neighborhood watch function as a VIPS in January. Herb has dedicated his "golden years" to the Mesa Police Department and the Neighborhood Watch program. A former Canadian resident, Herb moved to Mesa in 1992. He joined our Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) in 1995, out of a desire to assist his community to become a safer place to live. As a VIPS, he was assigned to help in a variety of different units, but he found his "niche" in the Crime Prevention Unit, with the Neighborhood Watch program. This allowed Herb to achieve his two goals at the same time by working in partnership with the Mesa Police and Sunland Village East to assist his community in becoming a safer place to live.

By May of 2002, Herb had logged in over 3,000 hours of volunteer service, and through his dedication and hard work the Sunland Village Neighborhood Watch program consisted of 74 Block Watch groups with over 250 volunteer captains, assistant captains and co-captains. Sunland Village became the largest area in Mesa with 100% participation in the Neighborhood Watch Program by the over 4,000 residents. It is because of his efforts and those of his Neighborhood Watch staff, that Sunland Village East is one of the safest communities in the Valley. Herb has worked tirelessly giving presentations, making sure that supplies were available to the captains and that every watch group met the program requirements. Through all the hard work, Herb kept smiling. He will be very hard to replace (if we can) and we wish him well as he retires once more. Herb was recently honored by the Crime Prevention Unit for his achievements.

## Help Eliminate Auto Theft V.I.N. Etching & Watch Your Car Program

**April 22, 4:00 to 6:00PM**  
Central Substation  
120 N. Robson

For more information call  
Holly @ 480-644-2033

**Bring your Auto Registration!**



Mesa Police Department  
Community Relations Unit  
130 North Robson Street  
Mesa, AZ 85201-6697  
terri.teten@cityofmesa.org

PRESORTED STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
MESA, ARIZONA  
PERMIT NO. 160

### Help Prevent ID Theft



**Shred, Shred, Shred !!**

### Calendar of Events

**March 31 and April 1 — 5PM to 9:30PM R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense)** Red Mountain Multigenerational Facility, 7550 E. Adobe. Contact Mesa Parks and Rec at 644-4449 or Terri (480-644-3692) for registration information. (You must attend both sessions of the class)

#### April

**22 - 4PM to 6PM H.E.A.T. and VIN Etching Vehicles**  
Central Substation, 120 N. Robson, **Bring your registration**  
Call Terri @ 480-644-3692 if you have any questions.

#### June

- 2 — 5PM to 9:30PM R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense)** Mesa Senior Center, 245 N. MacDonald. Contact Mesa Parks and Rec at 644-4449 or Terri (480-644-3692) for registration information. ( You must attend both June class sessions)
- 5 — 8AM to 12:30PM R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense)** Mesa Senior Center, 245 N. MacDonald. Contact Mesa Parks and Rec at 644-4449 or Terri (480-644-3692) for registration information. ( You must attend both June class sessions)

#### Children's fingerprinting by the Mesa Police Explorers

Last Tuesday of every month 6:00PM to 8:00PM

225 E. 1st St., Suite #207, (Crime Prevention Unit)

for additional details, call Officer Mitch Adair 480-644-4000 or 644-2300